

March 28, 1948.

Dr. M. E. Wolfrom,  
Dept. Chemistry,  
Ohio State University,  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Wolfrom,

As my earlier communications have indicated, we have been working on the specificity of disaccharases in *Escherichia coli* mutants. Preparations have been extracted which are very active in accumulating substances reducing Cu in acetic acid (Barfoed's monose method) from lactose. Chromatography seems to be the most effective method of proving that the products of the enzymatic reaction are (as presumed) in fact glucose and galactose. Have you had any occasion to work specifically on the system glucose-galactose-lactose? From your published data, I infer that these components should be rather easily separated on a column, but I wonder whether your group may have found any special procedure more effective. I would also appreciate reprints of your relevant publications, particularly JACS 68:1449 (1946) and ib. 2169, (1946).

Finally, we should be interested to test our mutants on lactositol, but before preparing a large quantity, we would like to have a preliminary sample for test and for seed. Could you accommodate us with about .5 gms. of this compound?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics.